of Maruti Government proposes to review the dealership granted by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) No dealerships were awarded by Maruti Udyog Limited during the period of the previous Government.

(b) The policy of awarding dealerships of Maruti vehicles has since been reviewed.

Firearms to people in Punjab for Self-Defence

533. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government plans to provide firearms to a large number of people in the militant-infested rural areas of the State for self-defence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Punjab administration have requested teh Central Government for the supply of automatic weapons and if so, what is Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Under the Scheme for Vigilance Defence, the Government of Punjab have provided arms to number of persons for self-defence. They had also requested for supply of automatic weapons. A number of such weapons have since been issued.

Arrest of Sri Lankan Tamils in Tamil Nadu

534. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Sri Lankan Tamils were arrested in September, 1990 when they were selling AK-47 rifles in a village near Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what are the details of the action taken against them; and

(c) what instructions have been given to the Tamil Nadu Government to prevent arms smuggling by Sri Lankan militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) According to a report received from the State Government, two Sri Lankan Tamils said to belong to the TELO Caders were arrested in a village near Rameswaram on 2nd September, 1990 while trying to sell one AK-47 rifle with some ammunition.

(b) Both the individuals have been detained under NSA and a case has been registered under the Arms Act.

(c) Instructions have been given to the State Government to tighten up surveillance of Sri Lanka elements and to have better coordination with Coastguard authorities to contain such activities.

Death of Sri Lankan Tamils

535. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Sri Lankan Tamil refugees died when they were crossing the sea to reach Tamil Nadu and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that twenty three decomposed bodies of Tamil refugees were spotted along Thanjavur coast; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to protect the Tamil refugees who were crossing the sea?